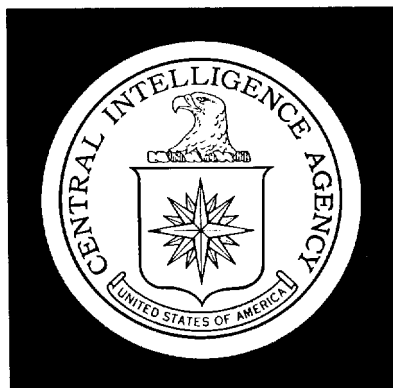


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USSR: General Secretary Brezhnev's reported acceptance of Chancellor Brandt's invitation to visit West Germany at an undetermined date is the latest manifestation of the Soviet leader's emergence from the mold of party boss and into the role of world statesman.

Brezhnev is obviously using recent meetings and his planned travels to prepare himself for this new role. His efforts, which coincide with a period of increased Soviet diplomatic activity, follow his success at the party congress last spring, which significantly strengthened his personal position. His course impels the party deeper into the realm of operational diplomacy with non-Communist powers, as distinct from policy formulation, and tends to put President Podgorny and Premier Kosygin somewhat in the shade. Despite the shift in their relative roles, Brezhnev is nevertheless continuing to operate within the framework of collective leadership. For example, he broke off his working vacation in the Crimea immediately before Brandt's visit there and made a brief trip to Moscow, apparently for last-minute consultations with his colleagues on the Politburo.

It is a measure of Brezhnev's relative lack of firsthand experience with the rest of the world that his trip to Paris next month will mark the first time he has traveled to a non-Communist country since he became party chief in 1964. As one of Khrushchev's lieutenants in the early 1960s, he went to Finland, Africa, Iran, and South Asia. His only visit to Western Europe during that period, however, was a brief one to Italy to attend the funeral of Italian Communist leader Palmiro Togliatti, when he had an "informal conversation" with the acting president of Italy.

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PHILIPPINES: President Marcos' restoration of the writ of habeas corpus to much of the country on 18 September should reduce criticism directed at him since he imposed emergency measures in late August following a grenade attack at a Manila political rally.

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the press, political opposition, and a cross-section of the public have vigorously protested the President's measures. Habeas corpus has been restored in 27 of the nation's 66 provinces, but remains suspended in Manila, parts of Luzon, and Mindanao. These are areas that harbor small-scale dissidence or have provided a safehaven for leftist radicals whom Marcos blames for the August grenade attack.

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